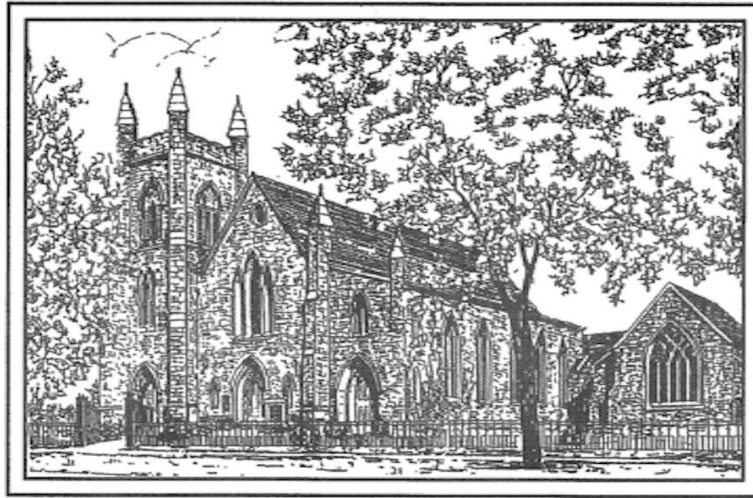


First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Founded in 1680



Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

HOLY COMMUNION FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 4TH CELEBRATION

JULY 6, 2025 ~ 10:00 am

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

***Call to Worship**

One: Sing joyfully to the LORD;

Many: praise the LORD with music.

One: Sing to God a new song;

Many: sing with skill and joy!

One: Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD;

Many: blessed are the people God chose for an inheritance.

One: From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all humanity;

Many: from the Lord's dwelling place God watches all who live on earth.

One: No nation is saved by the size of an army;

Many: despite all its great strength, it cannot save.

One: But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear God,

Many: on those whose hope is in God's unfailing love.

One: In God our hearts rejoice, for we trust in the holy name of our LORD,

Many: May God's unfailing love be with us because we put our hope in you. Amen.

***Invocation**

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

***A Prayer for Transformation**

As a community of believers, Holy One, we open ourselves to your restorative presence.

- **We are surrounded by beauty, yet we often fail to wonder.**
- **We are symbols of hope, yet we often succumb to despair.**
- **We are blessed beyond measure, yet we often allow greed to shape our generosity.**
- **We are gifted and graced as a people of faith, yet we often fail to let our light shine.**
- **We are loved beyond measure, yet we often fail to pass on your love unconditionally.**

In these moments of shared silence, encourage us to lay down our burdens, release our fears, forgive our failures, reclaim our hopes, and align ourselves with your deep wisdom. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

***Hymn**

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

PH #429

The Old Testament Reading

Micah 4:2-4

Steve Brosnihan

Many people will come and say: “Come, let us climb Yahweh’s mountain to the Temple of the God of Jacob, so that we may be instructed in God’s ways and walk in God’s paths.” Instruction will be given from Zion and the work of Yahweh from Jerusalem. Yahweh will judge between many peoples and arbitrate between mighty and distant nations. They will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation will not raise the sword against another, and never again will they train for war.

Reader: For the Word of God in Scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD!

The New Testament Reading

Hebrews 11:8-16

Steve Brosnihan

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore, from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Reader: For the Word of God in Scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us

ALL: **THANKS BE TO GOD!**

***Hymn**

"America"

PH #440

Message

**"Excerpts from the Rev. Henry Wight's Sermon, July 4, 1809,
Sixth Minister of First Congregational Church, Bristol, RI"**

Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Pastoral Prayer

Our Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as
we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Prayer Response

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen

Offertory Invitation

The Offertory

***The Doxology** PH #515

Old Hundredth

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

**We give you thanks, Wise God, for cultivating generosity within us and alerting us to the
needs around us. Use these gifts for the expansion of your will on earth and the blessing of
your beloved. In your name and in hope, we give these gifts. Amen.**

***Hymn**

"This Is My Song"

NCH #591

Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

One: May the Spirit of love be with you.
Many: **And may the love of Christ be with you.**
One: Open wide your cautious hearts.
Many: **May the hope of our Creator pour peace in our souls.**
One: Let us give thanks to the one who created this time and space.
Many: **From our joy we give God thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, our Creator, you have heard our prayers today for courage, hope, and healing. Help us to stand courageously when upholding our beliefs that all citizens will achieve life, liberty, and happiness; to seek you out constantly for guidance; to be the light in a world full of shadows; to be an example around the globe of enduring charity; and to carry us into the future with renewed energy, purpose, and confidence. For this we pray, Amen.

*Closing Hymn

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

NCH #593

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

"Hallelujah"

NCH #236

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude

A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Honor of the 240th Anniversary of the First Patriotic Exercises Established in Bristol, RI, on July 4, 1785
Read by Rei Battcher and Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup

NOTE: Starting next Sunday, July 14, our summer worship will be held in the DeWolf Room at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday.

~ Leading Worship today is the Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup ~

~ Our Music Director and Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~

~ Our lay liturgist today is Steve Brosnihan ~

~ Our greeters today are Janine Beausoleil, Eleanor Ingraham & Clifford Gustafson ~



Prayer List for Sunday, July 6, 2025

As a congregation, we lift up prayers today and throughout the week for the following people.

For concerns in the world:

The Palestinian people who are suffering under a humanitarian crisis because needed aid has been prevented from reaching them on the border with Israel. The Israeli hostages who still languish in Gaza. The Palestinian and Israeli people that peace will one day prevail in the ancient land of our spiritual ancestors.

Peace in the Middle East and wisdom for the leaders of the world and all those who have lost their lives in recent conflicts.

Peace in the Ukraine

For those in need of healing on our prayer list:

Steve, Amanda, and Elliana Wiacek, Ed Wiacek's son and family, who will begin a three-year diplomatic tour at the U.S. Embassy in Manila, Philippines.

Nick Chaconne, for recovery
Christy, a friend of Lynne Ramos, who has been ill with considerable pain; for her medical team, and
her wife Becky as they navigate Christy's latest illness
Gail, Gina Damiano's wife, who has been in hospital and is very ill
Sug Grant, who is recovering from a fall
Sandy Patterson, who is recovering from hip replacement surgery
Pat Cory, who is recovering from a heart procedure
Steve Brosnihan, who is recovering from back surgery
Ryan Higgins, Lilly Kilvert's son-in-law, who has Leukemia
Kathy, Jen Johnson's cousin, who is still healing after brain surgery
and is experiencing financial strains from the therapy
A beloved son, who is suffering from Leukemia
Kristen, who is recovering from surgery and will begin aggressive chemo and radiation therapies;
prayers for the best outcome
Marty Costianes
Deb, a friend of the Walsh family, who is recovering from a fall
Renee that she may find resolutions to issues pressing in on her
Family and friends who seek hope and healing in mind, body, and spirit
Tom, a neighbor of the Crouse family, who is recovering from a fall
Prayers for all victims of violence
Alma Campbell, who fell and broke her knee
Jack and Barbara Ringland
Roxanne, who is now dealing with breast cancer
Claudia and her family, as she enters hospice
Scott, Brenda, and Cameron, who need divine guidance and strength to follow
God's path for them
Max, for healing and freedom, and for his Mom
Robin Vestal, who has Stage 4 Duodenal Cancer, and her husband Ulysses, who are friends
of the Grant family
Peter MacDonald, who has Lung Cancer
Rusty, who has Lung Cancer
Autumn Quezada-Harrison
Ellie's Dad, who she misses
Carol, Karen's cousin, who had brain surgery
Carrigan, who has cancer, and for Carrigan's nurse, Kristen, who is also
being treated for breast cancer
Tyler, who is making a steady recovery from a bone transplant
Mark
Charlie
Ken Latham in Leicester, MA, who is on chemotherapy for Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma
Those who have lost their way may have wisdom, courage, and strength
Harriet
Ryan
Mark E., who has an aggressive form of prostate cancer
Fred Davis, who has stomach cancer
Meriel Smith
Charlotte Griffith
Kellie and Juan Morales's daughter

Bruce C., who is in rehab, and Pat P., both friends of Ed Wiacek
Caregivers in our congregation

Upcoming Birthdays:

Xochitl Quezada-Grant 07/08	Bronwen Bailey 07/10	Susan Donovan 07/11
Gail Cotta 07/11	Ella Drawbridge 07/24	Carla Finn 07/25
Marty Roussel 07/25	Jo-Ann Wilbur 07/27	Glenn Donovan 07/27
Cassidy Allen 07/28	Julia Allen 07/31	

What's on the Church Calendar

July 06, 2025	Sunday Worship: 10:00am
July 8, 2025	Tuesday Facility Meeting 7:00pm
July 10, 2025	Thursday Deacons Meeting 7:00pm
July 13, 2025	Sunday Worship: 10:00am
July 20, 2025	Sunday Worship: 10:00am
July 22, 2025	Church Council Meeting 7:00pm
July 27, 2025	Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Please visit our website for more information about the Church
and its events: fccbristol.org



“Invitation to Share Time, Talent, and Treasure”

When you give to First Congregational Church, you make possible our ministries that serve all God's people. Your gifts share the love of Jesus all year long. The act of giving is our personal expression of worship and also keeps our church financially healthy. Stewardship is not payment for services rendered. It is an act of faith and devotion to God. You may go to the following link to give now: <https://fccbristol.org/support-us/>.



NCH = New Century Hymnal (black hymnal) and PH = Pilgrim Hymnal (red hymnal)

Sources and Credits: Hymn tune names - as well as composers of the music and authors of the text - are listed in the hymnals with each hymn. CCLI License #1958911 and One License.Net #A-728124.

Sources for this service are written by or adapted from the following: Worship Leader's Guidebook, re:Worship: Call to Worship Litany: Psalm 33; United Church of Christ in Medfield, <http://www.uccmedfield.org/>, re:Worship: Independence Day Prayer; Rev. Dr. June C. Goudey, God's Freedom is Beyond Measure, Worship Ways, <http://www.ucc.org/>; John W. Vest, <http://johnvest.com/>, re:Worship: Prayers of the People: July 4; Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Like Lambs: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Worship Ways, After Pentecost 4C - July 6 - United Church of Christ; and Communion Service Liturgy, (c) Rev. Michelle L. Torigian 2022, A Communion Liturgy for National Holidays | Michelle L. Torigian.

Church Office Hours are Tuesday – Friday 10:00am – 2:00pm

Office e-mail address: office@FCCBristol.org

Pastoral Office Hours Tuesday – Thursday, 9am – 1pm

You may also schedule an appointment by contacting Rev. Nancy.

Church office line 401/253-7288 or e-mail office@FCCbristol.org

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